(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the condition of the railway wagons is deteriorating due to the transportation of goods more than its prescribed capacity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Cases of Railway wagons with more weight than the prescribed capacity have been detected during weighment checks. Loading in all such cases has been done by the consignor. However, in all these cases, punitive charges have been levied as per extant rules.

(c) Yes, Sir. Condition of wagon is affected if goods more than the prescribed capacity are transported.

(d) The wagons affected due to transportation of goods more than the prescribed capacity get detected during the next intensive examination and are attended to make them fit.

Kayamkulam as a Model Railway Station

1184. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kayamkulam railway station was declared as a model railway station and a railway junction by the previous Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have since been allocated for the further development of this station;

(d) if so, the details of the funds, so far, released; and

(e) the details of the development works, so far, undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Kayamkulam junction was identified as model station for the purpose of providing upgraded passenger amenities and instructions in this regard were issued on 11.11.2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A work for provision of platform shelter on platform no. 1 for 32 metre length has been sanctioned during 2005-06 at a cost of Rs. 8 lakh.

(e) The following works have been completed at Kayamkulam:

(i) Extension of platforms no. 2 and 3 for 48 metres.

(ii) Improvement of station building face lifting and provision of waiting hall.

(iii) Remodeling of station building.

Extension of Sambalpur-Raipur express to Bhubaneswar

1185.SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a proposal has been given by the East Coast Railway to extend Sambalpur-Raipur Express upto Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the proposal in spite of the fact that there is no direct train linking the Capital of Orissa and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal involves changes in the existing schedules of the train. The change may be resisted by the existing users. However, 3 pairs of trains viz. 8473/8474 Jaipur-Puri Express (weekly), 8405/8406 Ahmedabad-Puri Express (weekly) and 2145/2146 Lokmanya Tilak (Terminus)-Bhubaneswar Express (weekly) are already linking the Capitals of the two States.

Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

†1186. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of narrow gauge rail lines in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any efforts are being made for gauge conversion of the said lines;

(c) if so, the target fixed to complete the gauge conversion works; and

(d) the progress made in this regard as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The narrow gauge rail lines in Rajasthan are as under:-

(i) Sirmuttra-Mohari-Dhaulpur.

(ii) Mohari-Tantpur.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.